

PRESENT STUDENTS' LETTER.

SCALE HOW,
MARCH 5TH, 1905.

DEAR EX-STUDENTS,

We have a very full house this year, there being seventeen of us and fourteen Juniors.

Half-term began yesterday: in the evening we had a book dance; there were some very original ideas amongst them. The best was voted for, and had for a prize a pair of photograph of the Classroom and Millet Room, which are now to be got at Walmsley's. To-morrow most of us are going by coach to Coniston and hope to climb the "Old Man." Mrs. Franklin paid us a very pleasant visit last month, which we all enjoyed very much; the morning before she left she read us a very interesting paper which had been read by Mrs. Clement Parsons at the Edinburgh Conference last year. Some of us are very keen on mosses, and are painting them from under the microscope; we now have a book on liverworts and one on mosses. We are much looking forward to seeing you at the Conference in May, and hope that you will all come to a "Nature Dance" that we are giving on Thursday evening, May 4th. It is to be on the same plan as a book-party, everyone being dressed as the name of the plant, bird, &c., or with a symbol to represent it.

Miss Kitching is getting up an exhibition of curiosities, &c., from different parts of Uganda, which is to take place at the Annual Missionary Sale on March 23rd. We are all infected more or less with Miss Kitching's keenness, and are to help to show off the things on the day, and are now reading up books on Uganda, and writing Bungono proverbs on cards to be sold at a penny each—the latter at most curious and interesting. We are looking forward to a visit from Dr. Helen Webb later in the term.

THE SENIOR STUDENTS.

THE READING PAGE.

The smallest crumbs are gratefully received here, and yet—this poor pauper starves. Are we all too poor to share our mental loaves one with another, or too rich to remember our brother's necessities?

"The System," Percy White.

A novel which relates how an earnest, if mistaken, man tries to reform the world, first by a newspaper, then by an educational system—a school; the causes of his failure are more interesting than the tale, as such.

"The Forest Outlaws."

A book dealing with the days of St. Hugh of Lincoln, therefore more or less topical to the term's work—suitable to reading to children of 13 to 15.

"De Profundis."

A few quotations are given from this book; it is not reading for all, but understanding persons may find real beauty here and there.

"Far off, like a perfect pearl, one can see the City of God. It is so wonderful that it seems as if a child could reach it on a summer's day. . . . And so a child could."

"We think in eternity, but we move slowly through time. One can realize a thing in a single moment, but one loses it in the long hours that follow with leaden feet."

"In the soul of one who is ignorant there is always room for a great idea."

"Psychic Phenomena," Hudson.

A study of the attributes and functions of the objective and the subjective mind. A book to be read and pondered and debated line by line, but full of suggestive thought very logically expounded.

Books found Useful in Teaching.

"An Illustrated School Geography," Herbertson and Tyre, published by E. Arnold. Price 5/-.

"Descriptive Geography from Original Sources," Herbertson, published by Adam and Black.

"Stories from Froissart," H. Newbolt, published by Wells Gardner.

"An Introductory History of England," Fletcher.
(A book for pupils from 14 to 16, for whom Arnold Foster would be fragmentary. There are no illustrations.)

Nelson's "Geographical Readers" are also well spoken of, when the "London Readers" are not forthcoming.

NATURE NOTES.

March 4th.—In spite of the mild weather we have had this term we have only found twenty-two flowers. The Hazels are well out and the Alders look purple with their number of purple staminate catkins: the Black Poplars have red anthers shielded by pale green bracts.

Mosses are at their best; most of them have their dainty capsules on. We have found many kinds and succeeded in identifying some. The *Polytrichum catherina undulata*, small and growing chiefly on walls, with a green cap, which when removed, shows a brown theca. The *Bryum inclinatum* has a vivid green pendulous capsule, growing on a slender golden brown stalk. Fern Moss is plentiful in the Nook now; it seems to prefer damp grassy banks.

The Staghorn Moss scattered all its spores like dust. Mosses show "alternation of generation." That is, the spores in these capsules will produce a protonema from which will arise the gametophore, containing the antheridia (male), and archegonia (female). The union of these organs produces the sporogonium, the asexual stage in the life history of a moss. This sporogonium will produce a new protonema. The polypodii and spleenwort ferns have many of their old fronds covered with brown sori containing the sporangia.

Each sporangia contains sixty-four spores which give rise to tiny prothalli. The prothalli, in some measure, correspond to the cotyledons of a seed. The antheridia and archegonia are born on the prothalli, and from their union arises the new fern.

The birds are putting on their courting dresses; perky little chaffinches can be seen sitting in the hedges; the males have reddish-brown breast, and the females are tinged with green. The rooks sit in pairs on the tall trees and flirt, when not employed in building their nests. Tree creepers can be seen along Nab's Scar Terrace. A pair were watched making their way up a moss-grown tree; they *creep* up the tree like beetles, busily tapping with their beaks.

A flock of long-tailed tits have taken up their abode in the woods at the end of Rydal Lake. They were seen the other day hanging on the young larch trees, and pecking the green leaf buds; they allowed us to approach near enough to see their delicate tinted pink breasts. Bull-finches, a buzzard hawk, and herring gulls have also been seen this term.

POETRY CLUB.

January 28th.—There was a good attendance for the first meeting of the term. Wordsworth was the poet taken. Miss Smeeton read a short account of his life, and Miss Smith selections from "The Prelude" to illustrate his early life. The following poems were also read, "To the Skylark," "To the Daisy," "To Wansfell," "The Ode on Intimations of Immortality."

February 18th.—A short sketch of Matthew Arnold's life was given by Miss Wilkinson, who made us feel his personality. Rugby Chapel, in which Matthew Arnold speaks of his father, was read. "Thyrsis," that famous Monody, perhaps inferior only to "Lycidas," followed.

Selections from "Empedocles on Etna" were read, and as time would not allow us to have the whole of "Sohrab and

Rustum," Miss Smith briefly related the story and read some of the finest parts.

February 25th.—Last Saturday most of us had our first introduction to Lewis Morris. Miss Smith read Tantalus from "The Epic of Hades," and part of Phedra. The power of evil and its inevitable consequences seems to be brought out as the leading thought of the poem.

The following Programme has been made out for next term:—

Walt Whitman	Mrs. Browning
Lowell	Keats
Shelley	Stephen Phillips

STUDENTS' MEETINGS.

December 17th, 1904.—This was a fairly large meeting, and a great deal of important business was done. The Conference Working Committee were appointed, and the Programme drawn. Details appear elsewhere.

March 4th, 1905.—York Tea Rooms, Baker Street.

Students present: Misses Allen, A. S. Moore, McSheehy, Pennethorne, Lees, Roffe, R. Williams, L. Gray, G. Edwards, M. Conder, Garnier.

The secretary brought a letter from Miss Hirzel on Conference matters, which was read. Names of those known to be attending the Conference were taken. So far, the only disquieting thing about the Conference is the small number of Students who have said they are able to go. It is sincerely hoped that many more will be able to avail themselves of this unique opportunity of revisiting the home of their ideals, with such advantages of help and encouragement as the Conference affords. It was decided that for the future Students' meetings shall be held the first Saturday in every month, in the York Tea Rooms, which are admirably adapted, a private room being placed at our service, from 3-30 onwards; the business of the meeting not to begin before 4 p.m.

Discussion on the teaching of "Plutarch's Lives" was very helpful and animated. One student described how she marked the passages in red ink that were to be read by the children, and how she started with an epitomized sketch of the man's life, fitting him in to his chronological place, and associating him with his contemporaries. Another told how the children's narration was allowed sometimes to take the form of short vivid poems on an incident that had been read before.

Another discussion followed on Picture Talks and Drawing, children being asked to study one of the Rosa Bonheur pictures for ten minutes, and then sketch in from memory—particular care being given to the spacing and the outline. A specimen of the new badge was shown. The original design is most faithfully copied, and all thought it tasteful and pretty.

Badges may be had from Miss Lilian Gray, 5, Old Palace Lane, Richmond, Surrey.

FUTURE MEETINGS.

To be held at the York Tea Rooms, Baker Street (one minute's walk from Baker Street Station), from 3-30 p.m., on Saturdays, April 1st, May 6th, June 3rd, July 1st, October 7th, November 4th, December 2nd. Students within an hour of London are asked to accept this notice as the only intimation there will be of any future meetings.